

## CLAIMS

1) THERMAL TRANSFER PRINTER/LABELLER SPECIFICALLY  
DESIGNED FOR CASSETTES OR READY-TO-USE PACKAGES

5 comprising an enclosing structure (1), complete with motor drives, for  
printing ribbons (3) and receiving ribbons (9, 9'), which may be joined in  
a thermal printhead (7), characterised in that the spool of printing ribbon  
(3), the spool of receiving ribbon (9, 9') or both, are contained in special  
cassettes (2), (14), (15), or ready-to-use packages, the cassette (2), of a  
10 shape and size depending on the types of ribbon, may suitably  
accommodate the take-up core (4) and spool of printing ribbon (3), the  
core and spool have a central hole through which a driving device (5)  
may be inserted, the cassette (14) has an asymmetric conformation such  
as to contain the spool of the ribbon medium (9') and the take-up core  
15 (13), the core and spool have a central hole through which a driving  
device (10) may be inserted, the cassette (15) has a composite form,  
distinct from the previous ones, in order that its front part may contain  
the spool of printing ribbon (3) and take-up core (4) while the rear part  
holds the spool of the ribbon medium (9) and take-up core (13), which  
20 similarly have a central hole to accommodate the devices (5) and (10) for  
the respective drives.

Further characterised in that the printing apparatus (1) features two  
externally motorised driving devices (5) and (10), which also serve  
as a guide for introducing the cassettes (2),(14),(15), and moreover  
25 features a thermal printhead (7) whose position may be adjusted via a

device (6) with which it is integral, a series of idle rollers (11), a series of motorised rollers (12) and a rubber-coated drive roller (8).

2) THERMAL TRANSFER PRINTER/LABELLER SPECIFICALLY  
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according to the main claim, characterised in that the invention includes control devices for locking the drive mechanisms (5,10), and devices (6) for rewinding and checking the ribbons for wear.

10 3) THERMAL TRANSFER PRINTER/LABELLER SPECIFICALLY  
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according to the main claim, characterised in that the specific devices for picking up, feeding out and positioning the ribbons are, in all four versions, configured exclusively for ribbons contained in cassettes or  
15 equivalent quick-load packages.

4) THERMAL TRANSFER PRINTER/LABELLER SPECIFICALLY  
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according to the main claim, characterised in that the "ready-to-use  
20 package" essentially comprises a spool and take-up core rigidly connected by means of any rigid support.